

2024 - Family Devo

Nov 10 - a

READ: Acts 24:22-27

Main Idea: For the next two years Paul is kept in prison under Felix. He is called to talk with Felix often, but for a bad reason. Felix was hoping Paul would give him money as a bribe. But Paul uses it as an opportunity to preach the gospel to Felix. He was not able to convert him, but the governor was blessed with many opportunities to be saved.

DISCUSS

Children: Felix was very familiar with what Paul was talking about. He ended the proceedings and said he would decide the case when Lysias the commander arrived. He ordered a centurion to guard Paul and allowed him to have some freedom and allowed his friends to take care of him. A few days after the trial, Felix and his wife Drusilla brought Paul before them to hear him speak. Paul spoke about faith in Jesus Christ. Paul also spoke to them about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come. When Felix heard Paul's message it frightened him. He sent Paul away. Felix was hoping that Paul would pay him to release him. Paul would not have a clear conscience if he bribed Governor Felix to be set free. The power of the Holy Spirit living inside him enabled him to be obedient, to be a prisoner. Paul had the Lord Jesus' comfort and promise that he would testify about Him in Rome. Paul would wait and do things God's way even if that meant he had to sit in prison while he waited. Paul was left in prison for two years. Felix had an opportunity to do what was right and release Paul because he had not committed a crime but he wanted to grant a favor to the Jews so he kept Paul in prison. How is your conscience today?

Teen: What did Paul value more than his own freedom? Paul has spent two years in prison. How did he use this time? What can we learn from it?

Adult: If you had been studying with someone for two years, would you be tempted to give up? Would you think that you've said all there was to say? Maybe you'd think that you just didn't know enough? Paul was eloquent, had been trained as a lawyer, knew the old Law, yet he was not able to convert Felix, who was "well acquainted with the Way." Why do you think this was? What factors influenced Felix so that he remained as he was?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 147:5 (ESV)
**Great is our Lord, and
abundant in power;
his understanding is
beyond measure.**



2024 - Family Devo

Nov 10 - b



READ: Acts 25:1-9

Main Idea: After 2 years the governor changes from Felix to Festus. Festus hears from the Jews in Jerusalem who want Paul transported to Jerusalem so they can secretly kill him on the way. Festus denies them this request and they come to Caesarea and make their case against Paul. After hearing all their lies, Paul then is asked by Festus if he would be willing to stand trial in Jerusalem. Paul seems to have everyone against him here. But he is not alone, because God is with him.

DISCUSS

Children: The new governor that replaced Felix is named Festus. Three days after he became governor he traveled to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem the Jewish religious leaders met with Festus. The unbelieving Jews still had Paul on their mind even after 2 years had passed. They were still plotting to have Paul eliminated. Festus told them if they wanted to accuse Paul of committing a crime they should travel with him to Caesarea. In Caesarea he would have another trial to prove whether he had done anything wrong. Once again Paul is surrounded by unbelieving Jews who are determined to have him killed. They surround him and accuse him of serious crimes with no witnesses to prove that he actually did those things. Paul knew that his conscience was clear before God and man. Festus was getting nowhere with this trial. He knew that Paul had not committed any crime that he could be punished for. He wanted to please the unbelieving Jews and do them a favor so he thought Paul might like to travel to Jerusalem and have another trial there.

Teen: Has there ever been a time you felt everyone or everything was against you? Has there ever been a time you felt alone? Have you gone through struggles where your emotions were running high? How does remembering God is with you calm those emotions? Paul brings God into his difficult times. How can you do the same?

Adult: If you were on a jury where the accusers brought many charges, yet could not prove any of them, what would you feel about them? If the accused just said "I have done nothing wrong" as his defense, what would you think? Why do you think both these Roman governors, Felix and Festus, wanted to do the Jews a favor? What was in it for them?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 147:5 (ESV)
**Great is our Lord, and
abundant in power;
his understanding is
beyond measure.**

